6:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1948) 1950 MM1 Aden MM1

of Aden as a bunkering port for supplies of coal and oil ensures frequent shipping opportunities. The salient features of the import trade are repeated in the export figures, as the bulk of imports are re-exported. The principal business is in skins, hides, coffee, cotton piece-goods, cotton yarns, dates, grain, pulse and flour, sugar, tea, spices, oils, tobacco, gum, shells and salt.

The entrepôt trade is in the hands of large merchants, European, Indian and Arab.

Chapter 6: Production

SALT

The principal native product of Aden is salt, made from sea-water by solar evaporation in a series of pans 3,682 acres in extent. The export in 1948 amounted to 261,361 tons.

This industry is in the hands of four manufacturers, one Italian, under the management of the Custodian of Enemy Property, and three Indian. The year 1948 showed a considerable improvement in production as compared with the previous two years. The tonnage produced during the last five years is given below:

Year	Quantity of salt produced in tons
1944	205,308
1945	139,945
1946	113,042
1947	194,549
1948	271,108

FISHERIES

The coast of the Colony proper extends for approximately 16 sea miles as the crow flies, but is much indented. The bottom shelves steadily to around 50 fathoms 10 miles offshore, beyond which it falls sharply to over 100 fathoms.

In general the fishing is not to be compared with that of the Eastern Aden Protectorate. During the South-West Monsoon, however, an easterly migration of shoals of large pelagic fish occurs and, while these are in the vicinity, heavy landings may take place. During the summer of 1948 this fishery was well below average. For the remainder of the year, migratory fish occur spasmodically and the location of shoals calls for skill and experience.

Bottom fish are few and small except on certain rocky patches where handlines and basket traps achieve good results.

There are approximately 1,300 fishermen whose homes are in the Colony. Many of them migrate with the fish shoals along the Protectorate coast and, when fish are abundant at Aden, Protectorate fishermen come to fish in the Colony.